

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO. 25X1TOPIC Military Information from Altenburg

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DATE PREPARED 6 August 1951

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 12 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

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1. On 22 June 1951, about 60 soldiers, who wore red-bordered black epaulets without branch-of-service insignia and carried full packs, marched from the barracks installations in Altenburg (N 51/K 27) to the railroad station. Six trucks were seen hauling officers and EM with luggage to the barracks installations on 27 June. Numerous trucks, [redacted] were parked at the Infanterie Kaserne on 3 July 1951, and about 300 soldiers wearing black-bordered red epaulets and equipped with light and heavy machine guns bivouacked nearby. In the evening, the troops were no longer seen there and, since no windows in the installation were lighted, they must have departed. [redacted] hauled 20 soldiers with luggage to the railroad station on 5 July. [redacted] were entering or leaving the barracks installation on the same day.

2. Between 22 and 25 June, five platoons of Soviet soldiers were said to have marched from Muensa near Altenburg toward the Altenburg railroad station. On 4 July, [redacted] about 300 soldiers with black-bordered crimson epaulets marching along the same route. They were led by a lieutenant colonel and organized into 12 platoons, including 2 telephone construction platoons and 2 x 80-mm mortar platoons. All of the soldiers entrained at the Altenburg freight yard in the afternoon. Among the materiel loaded were 2 x 76.2-mm AT guns, 1 x 160-mm mortar, [redacted] The train left toward the north on the same evening.

* [redacted] Comment. The information [redacted] that the small units of troops equipped with easily transported weapons came from the direction of Muensa, west of Altenburg airfield, indicates that the troops came from the airfield. According to a report of [redacted] infantrymen had landed at the airfield from gliders towed by transport planes of the air transport regiment stationed there. See [redacted] According to paragraph 1 of the present report, elements of the unit that landed at the airfield seemed to have

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- 2 -

25X1

25X1

stayed temporarily at the Infanterie Kaserne before departing from Altenburg by rail. Since the motor vehicles which hauled the troops to the railroad station belong to headquarters units of the Eighth Gds Army in Altenburg, the unit's identity cannot be determined. However, since the motor vehicles

25X1

belong to the 39th Gds Itz Rifle Div rather than to the units in Altenburg, it is believed that the unit transported by air was a component of this division. The reference report which stated that soldiers with parachute equipment who departed from Altenburg airfield by plane left their equipment behind at the quarters constitutes another vague indication that the troops mentioned in the present report returned to Altenburg from an exercise and were not air-borne troops newly assigned to duty in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

25X1

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